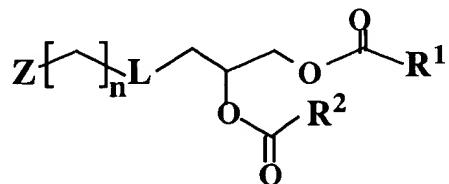


Please amend the abstract as follows:

A lipid represented by the formula:



wherein each of R¹ and R² is an alkyl or alkenyl chain having between about 8 to about 24 carbon atoms; n = 10-20; L is selected from the group consisting of (i) -X-(C=O)-Y-CH₂-, (ii) -X-(C=O)-, and (iii) -X-CH₂-, wherein X and Y are independently selected from oxygen, NH, and a direct bond; and Z is a weakly basic moiety that has a pK of less than about 7.4 and greater than about 4.0. is described.